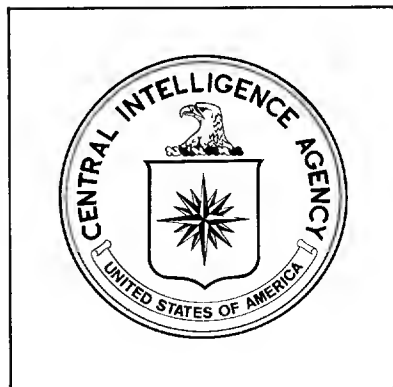


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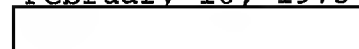
East Asia

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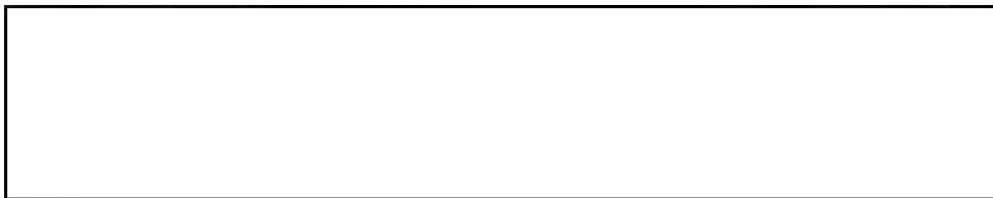


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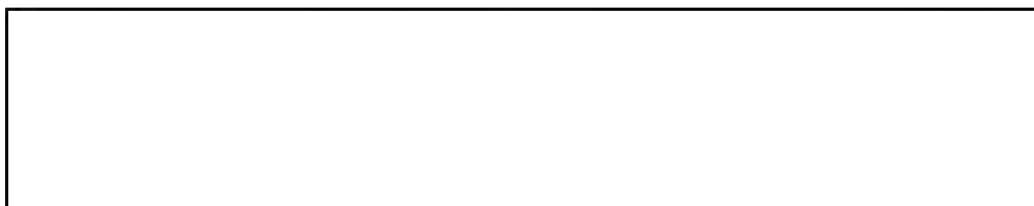
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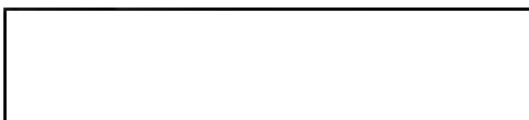
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NORTH ASIA

South Korea: Pak's Referendum. 9



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NORTH ASIA

South Korea: Pak's Referendum

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The government has taken careful measures over the past two weeks to ensure solid endorsement of "the major policies of President Pak" in the national referendum scheduled for February 12. Pak's reasons for seeking at least the appearance of voter approval at this time are apparently tactical. He hopes to:

--Put his domestic opponents on the defensive; they had been planning a major anti-government campaign this spring.

--Lay the public relations groundwork for new suppressive measures if an opposition campaign materializes.

--Demonstrate to audiences at home and abroad--particularly in the US--that his opposition, though vocal, has relatively little support nationally.

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A basic defect of Pak's referendum process, of course, is that it will solve none of his political headaches. His opponents will continue to demand limitations on his power, no matter what the final vote tally. [REDACTED]

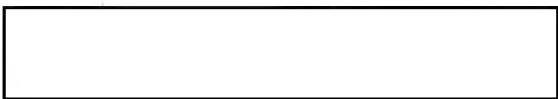
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